

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A tubular receptacle used for securing a first structure and a second structure of furniture, the tubular receptacle being introducible and securable into a bore on the first structure, and comprising:

a base,

an external cylindrical member mounted directly on and in contact with said base, the external cylindrical member having a side perimeter wall with at least one hinged member, and

an internal cylindrical member mounted directly on and in contact with said base, the internal cylindrical member being spaced apart from and inside of said external cylindrical member.

9. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member has a hinged end and a free end and wherein the hinged end is thinner than the free end.

10. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member includes a protrusion at a free end thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member moves away from the internal cylindrical member upon insertion of a second structure onto the internal cylindrical member.

12. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member has a vertical axis and is displaceable away from said vertical axis and towards said internal cylindrical member when said receptacle is fully inserted into a bore of a first structure of furniture.

13. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member has a vertical axis and is displaceable away from said vertical axis and away from said internal cylindrical member of said tubular receptacle and into the body of a first structure of furniture upon introduction of a second structure into said tubular receptacle.

14. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said internal cylindrical member is threaded.

15. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 14, wherein a second member is screwable onto said threaded internal cylindrical member to cam the hinged member to outwardly engage sides of a bore.

16. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said external cylindrical member has at least one groove.

17. (Previously Presented) Furniture comprising a first structure and a second structure where the second structure is connected to the first structure by the tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8.

18. (New) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein a longitudinal axis of the external cylindrical member passes through a center of the internal cylindrical member and wherein the external cylindrical member and the internal cylindrical member are on a same side of the base.

19. (New) A tubular receptacle used for securing a first structure and a leg structure of furniture, the tubular receptacle being introducible and securable into a bore on the first structure, the tubular receptacle comprising:

a base;

an external cylindrical member mounted on said base, the external cylindrical member having a longitudinal axis and having a side perimeter wall with grooves thereon and with at least one cut-out hinged member with a node at a free end, the at least one cut-out hinged member being movable away from the longitudinal axis of the external cylindrical member upon insertion of an end of the leg structure onto the internal cylindrical member;

an internal cylindrical member mounted on said base, the internal cylindrical member being spaced from and inside of said external cylindrical member, the internal cylindrical member receiving one end of the leg structure of the furniture.

20. (New) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 19, wherein the longitudinal axis of the external cylindrical member passes through a center of the internal cylindrical member and wherein the external cylindrical member and the internal cylindrical member are on a same side of the base.

21. (New) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 19, wherein said internal cylindrical member is threaded.

22. (New) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 21, wherein the leg structure is screwable onto said threaded internal cylindrical member to cam the hinged member to outwardly engage sides of a bore in the first structure.